3. Bio-fertilisers have been found to have a considerable scope for supplementing the nitrogen requirement. Rhizobium has been found to have a wider application for pulses and legume oilseeds and Blue Green Algae for wet land rice. Research efforts are required to be continued for exploiting other bio-fertilisers viz. Azotobacter, Azospirillum and Azolla.

4. A National Culture Collection Bank for Rhizobium and Blue Green Algae should be established. It should also be obligatory for all strains to be deposited in the Bank with full documentation. This centre will function both as a depository and service centre.

5. To promote the use of and to generate the demand of bio- fertilizers, national demonstrations, training programmes and other extension activities should be taken up.

6. Research efforts should be continued to develop the technical know-how in production, marketing, storage and transportation of bio-fertilisers.

7. Quality control is an essential component of promotion and use of bio- fertilisers. Production units should have build in quality control facilities before the bio-fertilisers are released for marketing.

8. Research activities should continue to evolve effective strains suitable for various soil, crop, ecological and environment conditions for obtaining maximum benefits from the use of bio-fertilisers.

9. An appropriate legislation should be enacted to prescribe the standards of approved bio-fertilisers and check their quality.

10. The fertiliser industry should be effectively involved in marketing, distribution and promiotion of bio-fertilisers. The promotion of bio-fertilisers should form a component of their promotional activities.

11. Marketing Federations, Agro- industries, National Seeds Corporation, State Seeds Corporations, State Farms Corporations should take up production and marketing of bio-fertilisers.

12. National Project on Bio-Fertilisers sanctioned by the Government for establishment of one national, six regional and 40 sub-centres was appreciated. It was recommended that the project should be strengthened during the Seventh Five Year Plan to enlarge its activities for promotion, marketing and quality control of bio-fertilisers.

13. The private entrepreneurs intending to produce bio-fertilisers should also invest on its promotion through field demonstration and other extension programmes.

14. It was noted that various types of bio-fertilisers are being successfully used in various countries such as Australia, USA Brazil, Canada, New Zealand, China and Vietnam. They have not only developed the technologies for large scale production but have also developed the marketing transportation also distribustion systems. India should interact with these conntries and take benefit of the experience of these countries to the extent applicable to Indian conditions.

Gap between Controlled and Open Market Prices of Essential Commodities

2575. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is wide gap between controlled and market prices of essential commodities in the country at present;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) to what extent these market prices are comparable with those during the last three years; and

(d) what measures Government propose to take to remove this gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) For the commodities sold through the public distribution system for which there is a dual price system, some variation between the prices fixed by the Government and the market prices exists.

(b) The main reason for the difference between the two prices is the Government's policy to make available these commodities to the common people, particularly the weaker and vulnerable sections of society at reasonable prices. The variation is also to some extent influenced by the demand for and supply of each commodity.

(c) The market prices of essential commodities have moved up during the last 3 years at varying rates.

(d) The main thrust of the Government policy is to improve the availability of essential commodities by increased production, better and larger coverage by the public distribution system, imports wherever necessary, regulation of exports and enforcement of the various provisions under the Essential Commodities Act and similar legislations. It has been impressed upon State Governments from time to time to take drastic action against those sons selling commodities at prices higher than fixed by the Government.

Cashew Plantation programme under Centrally Sponsored Schemes

2576. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where cashew plantation programme has been undertaken under centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) whether such schemes have been implemented in Orissa;

(c) if so, what is the total areas in different districts of Orissa which have been covered under cashew plantation programme so far; and

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The centrally sponsored scheme on package programme on cashewnut is being implemented in the states of Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Prodesh ,Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Orissa, West Bengal, Tripura and Union Territories of Goa and Pondicherrey.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An area of 17,144 hectare has been covered under centrally sponsored scheme on cashewanut developent in the districts of Ganjam, Puri, Dhen-Kanal, Cuttach, Keonjhar, Koraput, Balasore and Mayurbhanj in Orissa.

(d) Under the schemes on subsidised area expansion programme and under vegetative propagation programme on area of 14,011 hectare and 3133 hectare respectively have been covered in Orissa.

2577. *[Transferred to the 17th December, 1985].*

Price Support for purchase of Soyabean

2578. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited has finalised arrangements for puchase of soyabean and other Kharif oilseeds for 1985-86 seson;

(b) whether the price support operation has been finalised by NAFED and its constituent state level marketing federations and marketing socieieis;

(c) whether the Central Government have designated NAFED as the nodal agency for a period of 5 years for undertaking price support in kharif oilseeds;

(d) whether the NAFED has undertaken price support perations in soyabean between 1977-78 and 1980-81; and

(e) whether the production of soyabean in the country has incerased from th level of 1.5 lakhs tonnes in 1977-78 to the level of 10 lakhs tonnes at present as a result thereof??

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) In October, 1985, the Government designated NAFED as the nodal agency for price